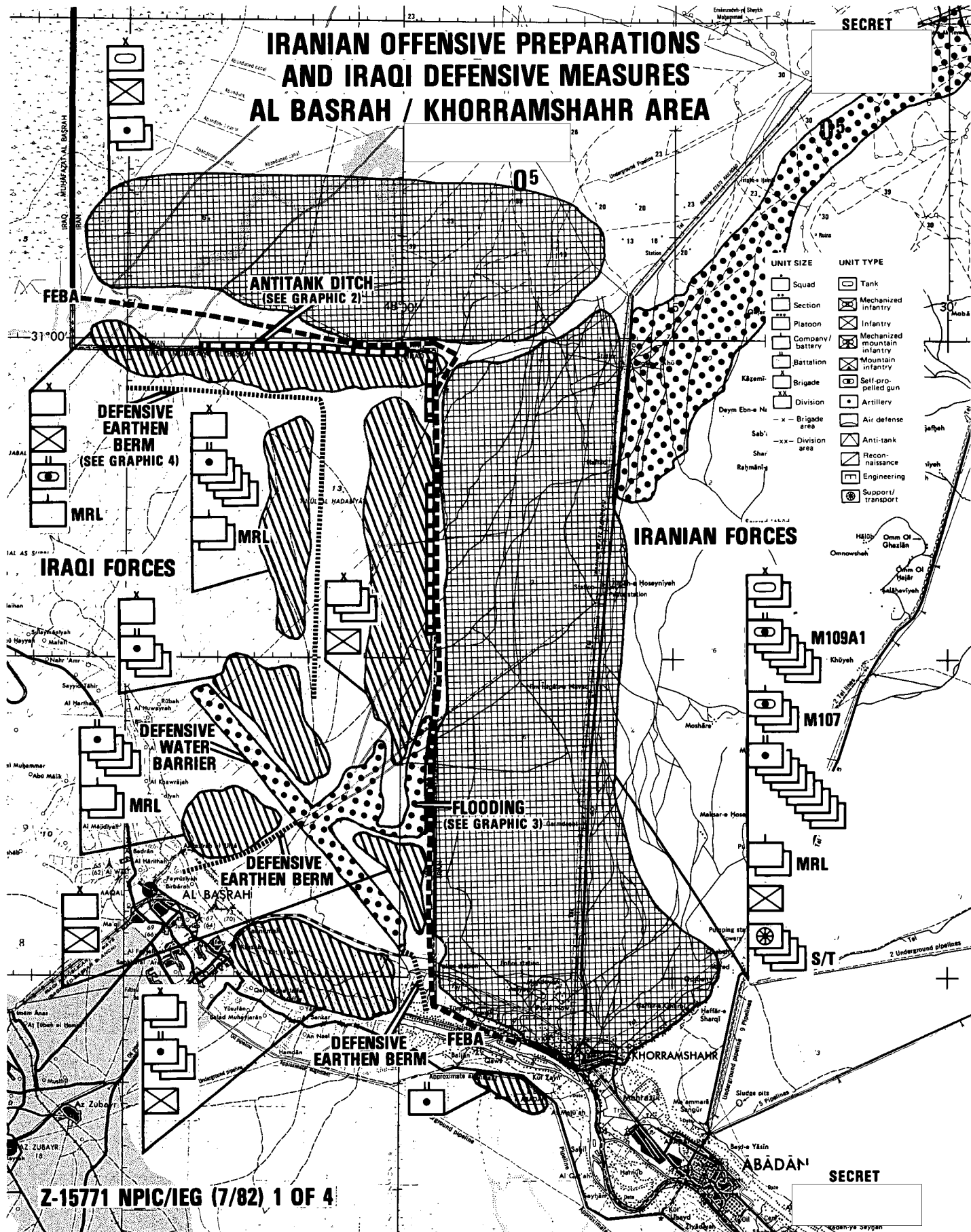


IRANIAN OFFENSIVE PREPARATIONS AND IRAQI DEFENSIVE MEASURES AL BASRAH / KHORRAMSHAHR AREA

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14 JULY 1982**IRANIAN OFFENSIVE PREPARATIONS AND IRAQI DEFENSIVE MEASURES**
AL BASRAH/KHORRAMSHAHR AREA

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: PREPARATIONS FOR AN IRANIAN OFFENSIVE OPERATION AND IRAQI DEFENSIVE MEASURES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE AL BASRAH/KHORRAMSHAHR AREA (FIGURE 1 OF 4).
2. (S/D) REMARKS: IRANIAN FORCES IN THE AL BASRAH/KHORRAMSHAHR AREA, WITH LEAD ELEMENTS DEPLOYED ALONG THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER NORTH AND EAST AL BASRAH WERE PREPARING FOR AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION INTO IRAQ. THE IRANIAN FORCES IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN AUGMENTED BY ELEMENTS OF TWO ADDITIONAL FIELD ARTILLERY (FA) BATTALIONS BETWEEN 10 AND 11 JULY. ADDITIONALLY, SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT UNITS IN THIS AREA WERE REPOSITIONED TO AREAS CLOSER TO THE FORWARD-EDGE-OF-THE-BATTLE-AREA (FEBA). IRANIAN FORCES DEPLOYED IN THIS AREA INCLUDED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF TWO ARMOR BRIGADES, A LARGE INFANTRY FORCE, SIX M-109A1 SELF-PROPELLED GUN (SPG) BATTALIONS, THREE M-107 SPG BATTERIES, NINE FA BATTALIONS, TWO PROBABLE MULTIPLE-ROCKET-LAUNCHER (MRL) BATTERIES AND AT LEAST FOUR SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT UNITS.

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(S/D) IRANIAN FORCES WHICH REMAINED DEPLOYED NORTH OF AL BASRAH ALONG THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER, INCLUDED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF ONE ARMOR BRIGADE, A LARGE INFANTRY FORCE, AND TWO FA BATTERIES.

(S/D) IRAQI DEFENSIVE MEASURES ALONG THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER INCLUDED ANTITANK DITCHES, FLOODING OF LOW-LYING AREAS, AND BERM CONSTRUCTION. CONSTRUCTION ON THREE ANTITANK DITCHES (FIGURE 2 OF 4 - PART OF ANTITANK DITCH ON GRAPHIC) EXTENDING FROM A POINT 26 NM NORTH TO A POINT 14 NM NORTHEAST OF AL BASRAH ALONG THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER, WAS CONTINUING. THE FLOODING OF LOW-LYING AREAS APPROXIMATELY 14 NM EAST-NORTHEAST OF AL BASRAH (FIGURE 3 OF 4) BY THE DIVERSION OF WATER FROM THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEFENSIVE WATER BARRIER ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SHATT AL ARAB HAS EFFECTIVELY INUNDATED

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A 6 NM LENGTH OF THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEFENSIVE EARTHEN BERM, FROM A POINT 24 NM NORTH TO A POINT 13 NM NORTHEAST OF AL BASRAH WAS CONTINUING (FIGURE 4 OF 4). IRAQI STRONGPOINTS CONSISTING OF THREE TRIANGULAR SHAPED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WERE ALONG THIS BERM. A SECOND DEFENSIVE EARTHEN BERM, IS 13 NM SOUTHEAST OF AL BASRAH. A THIRD DEFENSIVE EARTHEN BERM, 6 NM NORTHEAST OF AL BASRAH, WAS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(S/D) IRAQI FORCES, WHOSE LEAD ELEMENTS WERE DEPLOYED IN FRONT-LINE POSITIONS ALONG THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER NORTH AND POINT EAST OF AL BASRAH, INCLUDED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF SEVEN BRIGADE-SIZE ARMOR FORCES, THREE FA BATTALIONS, ONE SPG BATTALION, ONE MRL BATTERY, AND AT LEAST FOUR INFANTRY UNITS. BETWEEN 12 AND 13 JULY, IRANIAN ARTILLERY SHELLED THESE FORCES. IRAQI FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF THE FRONT-LINE UNITS, INCLUDED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF TWO BRIGADE-SIZE ARMOR FORCES, 12 FA BATTALIONS, AND FOUR PROBABLE MRL BATTERIES. AN ADDITIONAL IRAQI FA BATTALION REMAINED DEPLOYED ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SHATT AL ARAB, 15 NM SOUTHEAST OF AL BASRAH. (PERSIAN GULF SECTION)

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